

Chelsea College

Department of History and Philosophy of Science
Professor H R Post

University of London
Manresa Road London SW3 6LX
01 352 6421

15th November 1979,

Dear Michael,

Imperial College is no longer accepting M.Sc students in History of Science. As a result some people at the Science Museum are expressing interest in our M.Sc course. If our M.Sc course were approved as suitable by the Science Museum, we might get one or two students per year from them. I have drawn up an account of the contents of our course for the Science Museum, and I would be grateful for any suggested alterations as soon as possible (and no later than next Thursday 22nd November).

Yours,

Donald

Donald.

cc: Moshe Machover
Jon Dorling
Michael Redhead ✓
Melvin Earles.

DETAILS OF THE M.SC COURSE AT CHELSEA COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

The course can be done in one year full-time, and two years part-time. Candidates take four papers chosen in consultation with their tutors from the following list:

1. Topics in the History of Science
2. History of Epistemology
3. Philosophy of Physics
4. Philosophy of Science
5. Mathematical Logic I
6. Mathematical Logic II (advanced)
7. Theory of Computability (Recursion Theory and Set Theory)
8. Application of Logic (Nonstandard Analysis)
9. Philosophy of Mathematics
10. Theory of Probability and Statistics.

Options 6, 7, 8 and 9 are principally designed for those interested in mathematical logic and the foundations of mathematics. The remaining options are in the area of history and philosophy of science, and a brief sketch of the content of these courses can be given as follows:

1. Topics in the History of Science. This is divided between history of physics (including astronomy), and history of biology. The history of physics part usually covers the Copernican revolution, the development of Newtonian mechanics, and ^{19th Century} that of electromagnetic theory. The history of biology part usually covers some topics from the period of the 17th century revolution in science e.g. Harvey's discovery of the circulation of the blood, and a discussion of Darwin's development of the theory of evolution.

2. History of Epistemology. This is concerned with the history of theories as to the nature of human knowledge. Particular stress is laid on the connection between the philosophical theories of

knowledge of a given period and the science of ^{the} time. The course is divided into two parts. Part I deals with the ancient Greek period, and Part II with the period: Descartes to Kant.

3. Philosophy of Physics. This is concerned with the historical development of theoretical physics in the 20th century (relativity, quantum mechanics, and statistical mechanics); and with the philosophical problems to which these developments have given rise. It is only suitable for students with a good preparation in physics.

4. Philosophy of Science. This course covers the basic positions in philosophy of science. An attempt is made to examine how these positions stand up when tested against specific case studies in the history of science.

5. Mathematical Logic I. This is an introductory course in mathematical logic which covers the basic results in the field. Some knowledge of mathematical logic is of course necessary in order to understand modern philosophy of science.

6. Theory of Probability and Statistics. This covers the principal interpretations of the probability calculus, the applications of probability in the philosophy of science, and the logic of statistical inference.